

The State Chronicle.

Equal and Exact Justice to All Men, of Whatever State or Persuasion, Religious or Political.--Thos. Jefferson.

Raleigh, N. C., Friday Morning, December 18, 1891.

Price Five Cents.

HOUSE COMMITTEES.

Nothing New in the Situation--Springer for Lader of the House.

By The United Press.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 17. There is nothing new to-day in the situation respecting the organization of the House committees. Speaker Crisp's illness will rather tend to delay the announcement of the committees, which rumor has fixed for 23d inst. The rumor, however, lacks good foundation and against it is the opinion of Mr. McMillin, of the rules committee, that the announcement will not be made before the holiday recess. If any exception is made to this it will be the appropriations committee, so that work on the appropriation bills may go forward during the recess. The impression is general that Mr. Springer will go at the head of ways and means and Mr. Holman at the head of appropriations, but Mr. Springer would not confirm the statement that the chairmanship has been offered him. The majority of the committee on rules had a conference last night at Speaker Crisp's room and it is understood the list of committees which the Speaker is authorized to appoint was practically agreed upon. It is said Mr. Crisp and some friend, probably Mr. Catchings, will leave the city Saturday and seek rest and recreation at some convenient place where they may escape the importunities and pleadings of applicants for places and their friends.

A majority of the Senators are in favor of adjourning Saturday over the holidays, and as the House can do nothing, even were it to remain in session next week, the probabilities are that it will decide not to hold the Senate nor let that body adjourn alone, as it may do by concurrent action, but join with it in entering upon a recess at the end of the week.

Senator Daniel Speaks.

By The United Press.

RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 17. At 12:30 to-day Senator John W. Daniel made a brief speech to the members of the Legislature. The Senate took a short recess and the members went over to the hall of the House which was thronged. In the gathering there were many well known persons besides members of the Legislature. The ladies too were well represented. Lieutenant Governor Tyler presided and introduced the Senator. Major Daniel was received with great applause. He thanked the members for his reelection and had something pleasant to say to his Republican friends who, while not voting for him, declined to vote for any one in opposition to him. The Senator then briefly and eloquently discussed a few of the principles of the party to which he belongs.

Fire at Williamston.

Early Wednesday morning fire broke out in the postoffice. J. W. Watts occupied part of this as an art and novelty store. The wind was blowing and the fire burnt rapidly. The two story brick building of S. R. Briggs, containing the drugstore and offices of Dr. W. H. Harrell, opera house and the lodge room of the K. of H and I. O. O. F; three adjoining buildings occupied by J. G. Goddard, B. F. Godwin and John R. Ellis & Co., were entirely destroyed. The losses aggregate some \$20,000, and are: S. R. Briggs, store and stock, \$4,000; J. W. Watts stock, \$1,000; J. G. Goddard, store and stock, \$3,000; M. Burrass, store, \$2,000; J. R. Ellison & Co., stock, \$2,000; W. H. Carstarphen, stock, \$500; W. L. Sherrod, store, damaged, \$1,000.

A PROMINENT DIVINE PASSES AWAY.

Rev. R. O. Burton, D. D., Died in Weldon Yesterday.

A PROMINENT PREACHER

Of the North Carolina Methodist Conference, Well and Favorably Known in North Carolina and Virginia.

WELDON, N. C., Dec. 17. Rev. R. O. Burton, D. D., died at his home here to-day at eleven o'clock. He was one of the oldest and most prominent ministers in the North Carolina Methodist Conference, having joined the Virginia Conference when North Carolina was included in that conference. The year of his admission was 1833, and he had been in the ministry fifty-nine years serving districts, stations and circuits, and some of the most important appointments, in both North Carolina and Virginia. [Many years ago he was presiding elder of Raleigh district.] Of undoubted ability, level headed, his mind retained its force and originality until the last. His sermons were distinguished for forceful reasoning, perspicuity and elegance of expression. His life was nobly spent in the service of the Master and after years of earnest labor his end was peace.

They Inked Him.

By the United Press.

SAVANNAH, Ga., Dec. 17. Dr. Benton Strange, a prominent physician of Valdosta, has for some time aroused the indignation of the citizens by his conduct while on drunken sprees. It was decided to take some action in the matter, and on Tuesday night a mob gathered at his residence, called him out and took him away for some distance, where they flogged him and covered him with a coating of ink. Dr. Strange was not seriously injured, but decided that his usefulness in the town had been brought to a close and left the place.

Is the Report True?

By United Press.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17. The report that the President has decided to restore the duties on sugar, teas, and coffees coming from countries, which have so far, failed to enter into reciprocity agreements with the United States is accepted as true in official circles but cannot be absolutely authenticated. State department officers will not go so far as to admit that such is the fact, nor will officers in the treasury department, but all in a semi-mysterious way, say they would not be surprised if such action were taken. The loss of revenue since the duty on sugar was abolished and the drain on the revenue in meeting the sugar bounty, has been seriously felt and with countries from which the United States receives no benefits in exchange for the free entry of their products it is argued that it would only be doing justice to the United States to restore the duties.

City Councilman Arrested.

By United Press.

RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 17. City councilman M. T. Page was arrested to-day for engaging in a turkey raffle. He was trying his luck in a crowd when a policeman ordered the party to disperse. Page declined and was arrested.

A DREADFUL AFFAIR.

A Crushing Blow to Two Families in Chatham.

Yesterday's *Pittsboro Record* contains the following story of a terrible affair: Quite a sensation has been created in this county by the reported elopement of Dr. John S. Stone and Miss Vallie E. Weathers, both of Cape Fear township. Dr. Stone has deserted his wife and thirteen children, leaving them almost destitute. Miss Weathers is quite a handsome young woman, twenty-four years old, and is the daughter of the late M. R. Weathers. Their elopement, though apparently so strange, is not surprising to the people of that neighborhood, and thereby hangs a tale and quite a sensational one at that.

On the 27th day of February, 1889, Mr. M. R. Weathers, a well to do farmer of this county, died very suddenly on the day appointed for his second marriage, he being a widower. In fact he fell dead in his yard while getting ready to go to his marriage. It was whispered around, but not believed by many, that he had been poisoned by Dr. Stone, his family physician, who resided a mile or two distant. The reason alleged for suspecting Dr. Stone was that he was thought to be improperly intimate with Mr. Weathers' daughter, Vallie, and that Mr. Weathers' marriage would break up this illicit intimacy. So strong was this suspicion that a coroner's inquest was held, but there was no proof of Dr. Stone's guilt, and no charge was preferred against him. He published a long card denying his guilt, and the public generally believed him, but now, in view of subsequent events, public opinion has undergone a decided change. After Mr. Weathers' death Dr. Stone's visits to Vallie became more frequent and so notorious, that, at February Term, 1890, of our Superior court, they were tried and convicted of fornication and adultery. Judge Armfield, who tried the case, in pronouncing a sentence of twelve months imprisonment on Dr. Stone declared that it was the most aggravated case of the kind that he had ever known. After three months imprisonment in our county jail a pardon was granted to Dr. Stone by Gov. Fowle in consequence of the representations made to him that the prisoner was dying of consumption and that further imprisonment would soon kill him. Some time after his release, from jail Dr. Stone resumed his intimacy with Vallie Weathers, and shortly before our last court, in October, he left for parts unknown, fearing (it is said) that he would be indicted again. About two weeks ago Vallie Weathers went away, and was seen with Dr. Stone, who it is believed had returned to the neighborhood for her, but did not even visit his family. Where they have gone no one seems to know. It is indeed a sad and disgraceful affair, for the families of the two are highly respectable, especially Dr. Stone's family and relatives.

The "Baltimore" Inquiry.

By Cable.

VALPARAISO, Dec. 17. It is learned on semi-official authority that Judge Foster will conclude the Baltimore inquiry this week, and that his report will be considered by the government immediately after President Montt assumes his office on December 26th.

Paper Makers Assign.

The *Charlotte News* states that W. & R. Tiddy, manufacturers of paper, have made an assignment. Scarcity of orders, low prices for the product of the mills and the failure to collect bills caused the assignment.

STEVE ELKINS, SECRETARY OF WAR.

Washington News--Current Gossip of the Capital.

IN THE SENATE.

Mr. Manderson Presided in the Senate--House Not in Session--Hill's Credentials.

By United Press.

STEPHEN B. ELKINS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.--The President to-day sent to the Senate the nomination of Stephen B. Elkins, of West Virginia, to be Secretary of War, vice Redfield Proctor, resigned.

IN THE SENATE.

Mr. Manderson presided in the Senate to-day, and after he had called the Senate to order Mr. Culom presented the list of committees which was read and unanimously adopted.

After the reading of the committees Mr. Manderson said: "I lay before the Senate the credentials which were attested by David B. Hill, Governor, and by the Secretary of State." At the close of the reading the President *pro tem.* said that these credentials would be placed on file and there was no further comment.

Mr. Turpie, according to notice, addressed the Senate on the subject of the selection of Presidential electors by a popular vote, which he advocated in an able and carefully prepared classical speech which occupied over an hour in delivery. After Mr. Turpie's speech the Senate adjourned.

The House was not in session to-day.

SPEAKER CRISP SICK.

Speaker Crisp is confined to his room at the Metropolitan hotel to-day by a severe cold. He has been suffering for several days, but was so bad off this morning that he felt compelled to call for Dr. Walsh, who visited and prescribed for his patient. The Speaker is a victim of the generally prevailing disease, the gripple, but nothing serious is apprehended.

A Doctor's Terrible Fall.

Charlotte Chronicle.

Dr. A. W. Howell, of Cherryville, met with a serious accident Wednesday morning. He fell over the balcony at the Charlotte hotel to the pavement below, a distance of about twenty feet, and sustained injuries from which he may not recover. His fall was attributed to his having been drinking. He had been to bed and got up, saying to his roommate that he was going on the porch to get some air. His roommate dropped off to sleep, and knew nothing more of his friend until he was brought in in the condition described. Dr. Howell weighs 245 pounds and it is a wonder that he was not killed outright. He is highly respected in his community and has a good practice.

Arrested for Murder.

Thomas Peterson, alias Nathan Coward, colored, was arrested at Washington on Wednesday last, charged with murder. Three years ago, the *Progress* states, in Craven county, Coward and a white man were out hunting. The white man was killed and Coward ran away. His wife says he did it accidentally. The sheriff has notified the sheriff of Craven of his capture.

WILMINGTON'S LATEST SENSATION.

The Greatest Swindle Perpetrated by John C. Davis.

At Wilmington Wednesday four more indictments were lodged against John C. Davis, the lawyer. The plaintiff was Mrs. Nancy Dixon and the charges are obtaining money under false pretenses, perjury and forgery. The transaction concerns a mortgage on which it is charged that the defendant forged the name of a witness to the document and committed perjury in swearing that the signature was genuine at the time it was procured.

Rev. L. L. Nash, pastor of the Fifth Street M. E. church, publishes a card in yesterday's *Wilmington papers*, in which he says: "As the public is interested at this time, in the unfortunate embarrassment into which this church has been plunged by the business transactions of John C. Davis, I feel it a duty incumbent on me as the pastor of this church recently appointed, to state the facts to the public. Upon investigation I find the indebtedness of the church to be \$30,738.99, and that the church holds real estate besides the church building and parsonage, estimated to be worth \$11,350, which I think is a very liberal estimate. I find that a large number of the members of this church and others have involved themselves to help Mr. Davis out of his personal embarrassments, and that they have in many instances mortgaged their homes to raise money for him, not one dollar of which has gone into the building fund of the church, as we owe money enough to build and equip the church to various parties who furnished the money. Many of these sufferers are poor widows, and they have lost their all. The real estate, outside of the church and parsonage building, was deeded to the church by John C. Davis. Now, I propose to the church and to the friends of Christianity, to raise the amount of indebtedness on the church, and pay off all debts due by the church, and then to turn over this real estate conveyed by John C. Davis, to those who have suffered in this unfortunate affair, to be shared pro rata by them. This is in my judgment the most equitable solution of this question. I am not prepared to say how many have suffered in this matter; but I am prepared to say that Fifth Street M. E. church, South, of the city of Wilmington, N. C., does not want one cent that does not come to it fairly and honestly."

Two gentlemen of this city, neither of whom is a member of this church, came to me and offered to be one of two hundred to pay off this indebtedness. Are there not others who will do likewise, and let us save this church? I believe there are, and take this method of appealing to a generous public, in the interest of a great public enterprise. The gentlemen who made the offer to pay the debt did not accompany their offer with any requirement on the part of the church, but the proposition to give up this property comes from me in behalf of the church. It is impossible for us to do anything with this property until these debts are paid, as it is all covered with mortgages. While my sympathies go out to the unfortunate, my purpose is to see as far as in me lies that justice is done to all. Address any communication to box 214."

Mr. Mills Improving.

By United Press.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17. The condition of Mr. Mills continues to improve and he is reported to be almost in his usual good health.